

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 DHA-02 OMB-01 EUR-12 ACDA-07  
/094 W

-----240932Z 018233 /21

R 201045Z MAY 77

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8986

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, IS, JO

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH BAKERJIAN, WEST BANK UNRWA OFFICIAL

REF: JERUSALEM 732

1. CONGEN OFFICER ON MAY 19 CALLED ON TONY BAKERJIAN, UNRWA OFFICIAL AND WIDELY-RESPECTED WEST BANKER TO GET HIS VIEWS ON ISRAELI ELECTION RESULTS. BAKERJIAN THOUGHT THAT DESPITE EFFORTS OF JERUSALEM ARAB LANGUAGE PRESS (SEE REFTTEL) TO SHOW NO ALARM, ALL ON WEST BANK WERE VERY CONCERNED OVER BEGIN VICTORY AND WHAT IT COULD PORTEND FOR THEM. HE NOTED THAT IT WAS BEGIN WHO WANTED TO ANNEX ALL OF WEST BANK AND IN 1967 CALLED ON ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AT THAT TIME TO DO SO. ARABS IN ISRAEL WOULD ALSO BE IN FOR DIFFICULT TIME HE THOUGHT AS BEGIN IS BASICALLY ANTI-ARAB.

2. AS TO COMPARISON BETWEEN A BEGIN GOVERNMENT AND PREVIOUS  
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ISRAELI GOVERNMENTS, BAKERJIAN SAID THAT LABOR GOVERNMENTS HAD BECOME A KNOWN AND SOMEWHAT PREDICTABLE QUANTITY. THERE WAS A HISTORY OF PRACTICAL ACCOMMODATION AND THE LABOR GOVERNMENTS HAD MADE SOME MODIFICATIONS TO THEIR POLICIES IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT LOCAL NEEDS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE INCREASE OVER THE 10 YEARS OF OCCUPATION OF TRADE BETWEEN WEST BANK AND JORDAN AS WELL AS THE GRANTING

PERMISSION FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN 1976 BOTH SHOWED SOME CAPACITY BY THE FORMER ISRAELI GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE TACTICAL CHANGES IN POLICIES TOWARD THOSE IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. WITH BEGIN, BAKERJIAN SAID, ONE CANNOT BE SURE HOW THE ACCESSION TO POWER WILL AFFECT HIM BUT HIS PAST RHETORIC CLEARLY IS VERY DISTURBING.

3. BAKERJIAN WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMPACT OF THE ISRAELI ELECTION UPSET ON THE FUTURE PACE OF NEGOTIATIONS - WOULD THERE BE A PERIOD OF POLITICAL INSTABILITY WITH A THIN MAJORITY GOVERNMENT INCAPABLE OF GETTING KNESSET APPROVAL FOR DIFFICULT DECISIONS? WOULD THIS LEAD TO NEW ELECTIONS IN BRIEF PERIOD AND WOULD THIS MEAN FURTHER DELAYS IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARABS?

4. IT WAS INESCAPABLE CONCLUSION, BKAERJIAN SAID THAT THE US MUST MOVE ISRAEL IN THE DIRECTION OF PEACE. WITHOUT US PRESSURE INCLUDING THREATENED REDUCTION OF ECONOMIC AND MILITARY SUPPORT THERE COULD BE NO PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT. THIS WAS TRUE UNDER RABIN AND PERES AND WOULD BE EVEN MORE SO UNDER BEGIN.

5. COMMENT: BAKERJIAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN REALISTIC ABOUT THE DIFFICULTY OF ANY RESOLUTION OF THE ISRAELI-ARAB CONFLICT. LIKE MOST WEST BANKERS HE SEES THE PROBLEM AS STEMMING FROM ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE WHICH CAN ONLY BE CHANGED BY OUTSIDE PRESSURE AND THAT MUST COME FROM THE US. CONSEQUENTLY FOR HIM THE QUESTION REMAINS THE SAME UNDER BEGIN AS UNDER THE FORMER LABOR GOVERNMENTS - WILL THE US LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESIDENT BE WILLING TO TAKE THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL HEAT FROM PRO-ISRAELI ELEMENTS IN THE US AND PUT THE NECESSARY PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO TRADE TERRITORY FOR PEACE?  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** DISCUSSION WITH BAKERJIAN, WEST BANK UNRWA OFFICIAL  
**TAGS:** PINS, PFOR, IS, JO, UNRWA, (BAKERJIAN, TONY)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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